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A NEW SPECIES OF WASP OF THE GENUS SOLIERELLA FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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Solierella weberi Williams, new species

Male.—Length 4 mm. Black; head and thorax subopaque, abdomen shining; mandibles reddish yellow beyond their middle, dark reddish apically; tarsi and spurs brownish. Punctuation dense, finer on abdomen. Mandibles very slightly emarginate beneath, malar space about one-half basal width of mandibles; clypeus depressed anteriorly to end as a spike; frons rather gibbous, with a faint median impressed line ending anteriorly as a wedge and thence as a carina to between the antennae; ocelli in slightly less than a right-angle triangle, the lateral ocelli distant by a little more than their greatest diameter from the compound eyes; antennae only moderately stout, gently clavate, segments 3 and 4 subequal, segment 13 very short, subconical, shining, outwardly a little longer than segment 12. Disc of propodeum broadly truncate triangular, reticulate, with a delicate carinate groove, not margined laterally by a carina. Submarginal cells 1 and 2 each receiving a recurrent vein towards their tip; basal and transverse-median veins interstitial. Pile moderate and silvery.

Holotype, male, from RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, September 26, 1948 (P. W. Weber), in collection of the California Academy of Sciences. In fine condition. The paratype, also a male, was collected in Riverside, September 28, 1948 (P. W. Weber). It is 3.75 mm. long and has the disc of the propodeum coriaceous, but like the holotype has no bounding carinae, while in the forewings the transverse-median vein is slightly basad of the basal vein. Female is unknown.

At first sight this species suggests the common and widely distributed and variable *Solierella peckhami* (Ashmead), but is separated from the latter by the very short segment 13 of the antennae; in *S. peckhami* male, segment 13 is nearly equal to the sum of segments 10, 11 and 12. The non-margined propodeal disc

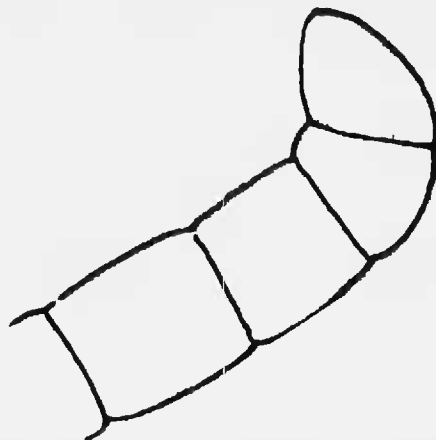


Figure 1.—Four terminal segments of antenna of *Solierella weberi*, paratype.

of the new species may not be a reliable character.

Named for Mr. P. W. Weber, entomologist with the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, Territory of Hawaii. I am indebted to Mr. Weber for submitting to me this and other species of *Solierella* for study.

BOOK REVIEW

INSECT FACT AND FOLKLORE. By Lucy W. Clausen. Macmillan Co., New York. xiv+194 pp. 1954. Price \$3.50.

This is an easy to read little book that was written primarily to introduce laymen to the field of entomology. In order to achieve this purpose the author has relied heavily upon those anecdotes, stories, superstitions, verses, and bits of information which would prove both interesting and informative to the general reader. Insects as they are utilized as a source of food by man and especially as they play a role in the folklore of various people are dealt with. She has infused just enough technical entomology to make the text comprehensible and to provide the reader with an appreciation of insects and what they are.

After the first chapter, which orients the reader to entomology, each chapter pertains to a group of insects, i.e., moths and butterflies, beetles, orthopteroids, flies, bees, ants, wasps, bugs, dragonflies and damselflies, termites, fleas, and lice. Also included is a chapter on insect-produced plant galls. The last chapter is devoted to a discussion of entomology as a science, in regard to its past history, present endeavors and achievements, and future possibilities.

The book will probably serve well its intended purpose. Indeed even the research entomologist and teacher will find much that is new and interesting. As might be expected in such a compilation of facts and stories, some errors have found their way into it. However, these are few in number and do not detract seriously from the over-all authenticity of the book nor from its interest. The illustrations which are sprinkled through the pages are not styled in the explanatory manner of scientific drawings, but convey adequately the general facies of the insect.—JEROME G. ROZEN, JR., *University of California, Berkeley*.